

Mary Lou Terrien - Senate Bill 1045

From: "Marilyn Pongonis" <mpongonis@lifelineofohio.org>
To: <mterrie@house.mi.gov>
Date: 2/24/2010 4:14 PM
Subject: Senate Bill 1045

Representative Pam Byrnes
Chair, House Committee on Transportation
Room 251, Capital Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

The Honorable Pam Byrnes and the House Committee on Transportation:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1045, legislation to mandate donor education in driver's education classes in Michigan. As Director of Communications for Lifeline of Ohio, one of the state's four federally designated organ procurement organizations and chair of the Donate Life Ohio committee, I know I speak for all my colleagues in emphasizing the importance of providing education about donation to teens prior to receiving their driver's license.

Ohio knows first hand the big difference this small step can make. House Bill 406 was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law in July of 2002, requiring 30 minutes of education on donation for every student enrolled in driver's training. Since its implementation the number of new drivers under the age of 18 saying yes to placing their name in the Ohio Donor Registry has increased over 10 percent to almost 63%.

Donor education in driver's education classes is a necessary component of our partnership with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, who has supported and facilitated our efforts to provide speakers, videos and printed materials to the state's driving schools as resources for compliance with the law. Educating our young student drivers ensures they are making an informed decision and also provides the opportunity for important discussions about donation to take place at home, before they are asked to join the registry at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Thank you for the chance to share Ohio's experience with donation education in driver's education classes. Based on my state's experience, Senate Bill 1045 represents good, solid policy that is proven to increase the number of residents on the donor registry.

Marilyn W. Pongonis
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Mary Lou Terrien - Senate Bill 1045

From: Joni Rosebrock <jonir@iopo.org>
To: "mterrie@house.mi.gov" <mterrie@house.mi.gov>
Date: 2/24/2010 7:22 PM
Subject: Senate Bill 1045

Representative Pam Byrnes
Chair, House Committee on Transportation Room 251, Capital Building Lansing, MI 48909-7514

The Honorable Pam Byrnes and the House Committee on Transportation:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 1045, legislation to mandate donor education in driver's education classes. As the federally designated organ procurement organization for Indiana, I know first-hand the importance of providing education to teens and new drivers prior to their obtaining a driver license.

Our state implemented a similar program in 1991. Our state legislature mandated that students be taught how to participate in the organ donor program in our state. Since implementation of the program, the number of residents registered on our state's donor registry has increased. 85% of residents under age 30 with a driver license have register a decision to be an organ and tissue donor in our state.

In the past nineteen years we have had contact with hundreds of donor families who have said that knowing what their teenager wanted at the time of their death made the situation better. Parents are able to have a peace of mind knowing that their young son or daughter wanted to help saves lives. Many times the young driver influences the family members and their personal donation decision. In my opinion, educating our youth about organ and tissue donation and allowing them to make a personal decision is absolutely essential to creating a culture that will go on to save lives simply because they can. We are educating a generation that just knows donation saves lives and it is the right thing to do.

Donor education in driver's education classes is a necessary component of our partnership with the department of motor vehicles (DMV). Educating our new drivers provides the opportunity for a discussion about donation to take place at home, before they are asked to join the registry at the DMV.

Thank you for the chance to share our state's experience with donation education in driver's education classes. Based on my state's experience, Senate Bill 1045 represents good, solid policy that is proven to increase the number of residents on the donor registry.

Sincerely,
Joni Rosebrock
Public Relations Manager
Indiana Organ Procurement Organization
www.iopo.org



Blood Services
Southeastern Michigan Region
100 Mack Avenue, Box 33351
Detroit, MI 48232-5351
(313) 833-4440

January 19, 2010

The Honorable John Gleason
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, MI

Dear Senator Gleason,

Thank you for introducing SB 1045 and seeking our views. On behalf of the American Red Cross in Michigan, we are pleased to support and endorse this legislation. Taking a few minutes to educate new, potential drivers about the value of organ donations is immediately valuable and in the long term should improve the lives of many recipients years into the future. You have our full support and offer to assist seeing this bill become state law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheri L. Ward".

Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross
Southeastern Michigan Blood Region

To donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE